

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /066 W

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R 211730Z AUG 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3184

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T USNATO 4438

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS FORCE REDUCTIONS; AMBASSADOR BRUCE MEETING
WITH CHARGE BUWALDA

REF: STATE 198559 DTC 210002Z AUG 75

1. AMBASSADOR BRUCE MET WITH CHARGE BUWALDA ON AFTERNOON OF 21
AUGUST TO INFORM HIM OF GRAVITY WITH WHICH WE VIEW PROPOSED GON
FORCE REDUCTIONS, ACCORDING TO GUIDANCE REFTEL. THERE FOLLOWS
BELOW TEXT OF SPEAKING NOTES PROVIDED TO BUWALDA IN WRITTEN FORM.

SECRET

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BEGIN TEXT:

MY AUTHORITIES HAVE ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO YOU THE GRAVITY
WITH WHICH THEY VIEW THE DRASTIC REDUCTIONS ENVISAGED IN YOUR

LETTER OF AUGUST 14TH. AS YOUR LETTER POINTS OUT, THE PROPOSED MEASURES CONSTITUTE AN IMPORTANT QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE CHANGE IN THE NETHERLANDS CONTRIBUTION TO NATO DEFENSE. WE ARE GREATLY CONCERNED WITH THIS REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES' COMMITMENTS TO NATO, WHICH WOULD DIMINISH NATO'S CAPABILITIES FOR SURVEILLANCE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE. AS THE NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE POINTED OUT, IN MCM-39-74 AND MCM-2-75, THESE AREAS ARE ALREADY SUFFERING BECAUSE OF DELAYS IN THE NETHERLANDS' REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE FOR BOTH THE CRUISER AND THE LONG-RANGE MARITIME PARTOL AIRCRAFT. FURTHER DELAYS CAN ONLY SERVE TO AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION.

WE FURTHER BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSALS ENVISAGED IN YOUR LETTER OF AUGUST 14 ARE PARTICULARLY UNTIMELY. THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE ALLIANCE ON THE SOUTERN FLANK AND THE CURRENT UNCERTAINTIES IN PORTUGAL ARE WELL KNOWN. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS AN IMPORTANT NEED TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE USSR, IN THE WADE OF CSCE, THAT WE ARE NOT RELAXING OUT COMMON DEFENSE.

MY AUTHORITIES HAVE ASKED ME TO CONVEY THEIR HOPE THAT THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT WILL RECONSIDER THE PROPOSED REDUCTIONS, AND WILL AT LEAST WITHOLD ANY FINAL DECISIONS PENDING ALLIED CONSULTATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH C-M(55)82 (FINAL).

WE ARE MAKING THESE VIEWS KNOWN TO YOUR GOVERNMENT AT THE HAGUE.
END TEXT.

2. CHARGE BUWALDA STATED THAT US DEMARCHE WAS PERFECTLY CLEAR AND THAT HE WOULD PROVIDE IT TO HIS GOVERNMENT. HE STRESSED THE GON WAS INITIATING REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH C-M(55)82(FINAL) TATHER THAN WAITING FOR DPQ REVIEW BECAUSE OF IMMEDIACY OF PLANNED REDUCTIONS AND ECONOMIC SITUATION WHICH HAS IMPARTED URGENCY TO THEM. HE ALSO ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION THAT SIMILAR VIEWS WOULD BE EXPRESSED BY AMEMB HAGUE AND WAS ASSURED THEY WOULD BE.

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3. WHEN QUERIED ON EFFECT OF DECOMMISSIONING CRUISER IN SEPTEMBER, PRIOR TO PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ASSUMED TO TAKE PLACE BY END OF OCTOBER, BUWALDA EXPLAINED THAT THE CRUISER WOULD SIMPLY BE MOVED FROM DRYDOCK, WHERE REPARIS ARE BEING COMPLETED, TO A MOORING WHERE IT WILL REMAIN UNTIL A DECISION IS REACHED. ASKED ABOUT EMPLOYMENT FOR ITS CREW IN THE LONG INTERIM BEFORE REPLACEMENT GUIDED MISSILE FRIGATES ENTER SERVICE, HE MERELY COMMENTED THAT HE HOPES THIS POINT IS RAISED IN FORTHCOMING DPC ON PROPOSED GON REDUCTIONS. COMMEND: WE HOPE AMEMB HAGUE AND OTHERS CAN DEVELOP FOREGOING POINT MORE FORCEFULLY THAN INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE PERMITS US TO DO. WE SENSE THAT OUT BEST CASE FOR PRESUASION MAY TURN ON CONTINUED OPERATIONAL READINESS

TRAINING FOR EFFECTED MEMBERS OF CRUISER CREW AND ALSO FOR
PATROL AIRCRAFT CREWS AND BACK-UP PERSONNEL WHO WILL QUICKLY
LOSE PROFICIENCY IF PROPOSED REDUCTIONS TAKE PLACE. END COMMENT.
BRUCE.

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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TAGS: MPOL, NATO, NL
To: STATE
SECDEF
THE HAGUE INFO BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
LONDON

OSLO
OTTAWA
PARIS
ROME
CINCLANT
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
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